

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee
(SSTMD AC) Meeting Summary
September 11, 2008**

Items 1, 2, 3 – Introductions, Approval of Minutes, Chair’s Comments: Members and guests introduced themselves.

Chair Jim Polk asked that the group observe a brief moment of silence in honor of the victims of 9/11.

Since there was no quorum in June, both the minutes from the June and July meetings were reviewed and approved without comment.

Mr. Polk noted that the next meeting (October 9) is Yom Kippur. The Committee rescheduled the next meeting one week later for October 16th.

Mr. Polk reminded the group about the official County policy regarding Advisory Committee attendance and mentioned that there remained a few vacancies that need to be filled, including a representative for both large and small businesses.

Mr. Polk also mentioned a few items that were recently brought to his attention. The first was from a copy of the Silver Spring Advisory Board minutes about funding issues for the Silver Spring Transit Center; and the second item was a newspaper article regarding Montgomery County cutting funding for certain projects, including \$25 million from the Purple Line. **Mr. Polk** deferred to **Donald Scheuerman** to discuss the first item, SSTC funding.

Item 4 –IOS Update: **Mr. Scheuerman** said that Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) has a large urban park, which is in the middle of the current configuration for the Transit Center. In order to build the Transit Center, the urban park must first be relocated. As part of the park agreement with M-NCPPC, there were essential elements that M-NCPPC wanted included in the Transit Center. The agreement basically states that there are to be “x” number of elements included, and if the inclusion of those elements puts the project over budget, then they would need to review with M-NCPPC the elements that may need to be cut. The budget did exceed the initial allocation of \$16.72 million. **Mr. Scheuerman** went through some of the items in the Transit Center that were not going to receive funding, and said that the Council ultimately approved an additional nearly \$2 million in supplemental funding.

The project is now ready to go to the next phase. The construction contract has been signed by Foulger-Pratt Construction. The next step would be a Notice to Proceed, and ground would be broken officially on September 28th.

The penguins (on the informational signs) are now on display around the IOS, way finding signs pointing to the MARC, the Metro, etc. are up, about half the kiosks are up, and smaller versions of these will be posted at the actual bus stops.

WMATA Bike Riders will be relocated to the top of the jug handle, and WMATA will be notified.

For actual construction to begin, one of the first tasks is to take possession of the perimeter of where the Transit Center will be, fencing it off, etc. At that point, many small details need to be taken care of before work continues, such as relocating some utilities, which can only be moved after the area is closed down. Once all utility work is done, then site excavation and concrete work can begin. The first 4-6 months will be relatively uneventful, but, soon thereafter there will be explosions as the construction team digs into the bedrock.

Item 5 – NOAA Bike Riders: Regina Spallone and Stanley Ellsworth, NOAA, discussed NOAA's recent efforts to promote bicycle riding. NOAA has developed a Green Team, which has been working to reduce the carbon footprint of the NOAA building and improve efforts to reduce energy use of the building. A subset of the Green Team is the Bicycle Team, which has been tasked with removing obstacles, encouraging participation, and providing education to NOAA employees about the benefits biking to work.

Initiatives include:

- Providing detailed routes
- Their own internal Bike to Work Day
- Staff Education

Additional information available at:

http://www.noaaworld.noaa.gov/aroundnoaa/jun2008_around_1.html

Item 6 – Office of Legislative Oversight: Jennifer Renkema, Research Associate, provided background information about the Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO). The OLO works for the County Council. Each year, the Council delegates several projects to the OLO to report back on. The current year's project examines Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs within the County, which involves looking at the Transit Services Division, Commuter Services and TMD operations. Another part of the process includes a comparative analysis of other jurisdictions.

Aron Trombka, Senior Legislative Analyst, added that OLO is interested in the specific programs of the Silver Spring TMD, and how those programs and initiatives intersect with other County policies. These specific issues need not be discussed at today's meeting, but he and **Ms. Renkema** will leave contact information, and would appreciate any and all interests and concerns. **Mr. Trombka** said that the OLO is aware that many of the issues that this TMD faces are out of the County's control, including the presence of state roads, WMATA operations, etc.

Contact Information:

Aron Trombka / aron.trombka@montgomerycountymd.gov

Jennifer Renkema / jennifer.renkema@montgomerycountymd.gov

Item 7 – Transportation Demand Management: **Sandra Brecher** distributed a handout explaining TDM efforts. Due to a lack of time, **Ms. Brecher** explained that a more complete presentation would be scheduled for a future meeting, but that she would cover some of the basics.

Ms. Brecher defined TDM as “any method of reducing demand for road capacity, primarily during peak periods.” These efforts are aimed primarily at business, and therefore are business and developer-focused, although residents are also included on occasion.

Ms. Brecher emphasized that the transit infrastructure is a vital part of all TDM programs. Without the availability of transit, most TDM measures are ineffective, because there must be viable alternatives to driving if the goal is to change behavior. And integrating these alternative modes helps to create a seamless commute. For example, all Ride On and Metrobuses in Montgomery are fitted with bike racks.

Ms. Brecher briefly discussed the County Code, which requires employers of a certain size to submit Traffic Mitigation Plans (TMPs), but will expound on this at a future meeting, along with details about commuting benefits for employers and employees, Fare Share, Super Fare Share, Smart Benefits, Traffic Mitigation Plans and Agreements, etc.

Ms. Brecher shared some Ride On ridership statistics, and referred Committee members to the handout materials for further information.

Mr. Polk asked the group to read through the handouts and bring up any suggestions, questions, and concerns at the next meeting.

Item 8 – Updates: **Ms. Brecher** said that the Commuter Services office has finally moved, as has the Commuter Store, now called TRiPS. The Commuter Services Office is located at 1110 Bonifant Street, Suite 400; the TRiPS Commuter Store is located at 8413 Ramsey Avenue (corner of Wayne & Ramsey).

Mel Tull provided handouts for the Silver Spring Jazz Festival (Sept. 13) and Magical Montgomery (Sept 27) and encouraged members and guests to peruse them.

Mr. Carlson briefly discussed General Volunteer Registration Forms, which are required by Risk Management to be completed. **Mr. Carlson** will send any out by mail that have not yet been completed, as they must be signed and cannot be faxed.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:40 AM
Next Meeting Date: Oct. 16, 2008

Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee (SSTMD AC)
Attendance Sheet
Sept. 11, 2008

Voting Members (12)			
Name	Affiliation	Present	Absent
Chamber Members (3)			
Samantha Mazo	Linowes and Blocher LLP	X	
James S. Polk, Chairman	Technology Service Corporation	X	
Tom Collins	Atlantech Online	X	
Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)			
Edward Furgol	Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS	X	
Charles Segerman, Vice Chairman	North & West Sector Plan Area	X	
Andy Wexler	CBD Resident	X	
TMD Employers less than 50 employees (3)			
Julian Leidman	Bonanza Coin	X	
Suvita Melehy	Melehy & Associates		X
Cathy Wilde	Solid Waste Assoc of North America	X	
TMD Employers with 50 or more employees (3)			
G. Michael Price	Discovery Communications	X	
Robin Goudy	Social & Scientific Systems	X	
Vacant			
Non-Voting Members (4)			
Sandra Brecher, DOT Transit Services	DOT Director or Designee	X	
Chuck Kines	M-NCPPC		X
Sergeant Thomas Harmon	Montgomery County Police		X
Staff			
Terrie O'Steen	DOT, Commuter Services	X	
David Kantor	DOT, Commuter Services		X
Jim Carlson	DOT, Commuter Services	X	
Guests			
Stanley Elsworth	NOAA	X	
Jennifer Renkema	Council OLO	X	
Regina Spallone	NOAA	X	
Donald Scheuerman	Montgomery County DGS	X	
Aron Trombka	Council OLO	X	
Mel Tull	SS Regional Services Center	X	